

DD/P 2-4056

APR 20 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman CIA Career Council

SUBJECT: Procedure for Presentation of Honor Awards  
to DD/P Personnel

1. At the 16th meeting of the CIA Career Council on 15 December 1955, the Council disapproved the issuance of the "Honors List" on security grounds.

2. At the 20th meeting of the Career Council on 15 March 1956, the Council approved the Staff Study on Incentive and Honor Awards and the Acting Chairman requested DD/P to furnish guide lines for the procedure to be followed for presentation of Honor Awards to Clandestine Services personnel.

3. At the DD/P meeting of staff and division chiefs, 29 March 1956, [REDACTED] briefed those present on the background, present status and plans for the agency Honor Awards Program. He pointed out that the Departments of State and Defense have established Honor Awards Programs and reviewed the criteria established for Presidential and CIA Honor Awards and said that the Task Force for this Program had recommended an additional agency Honor Award - a Certificate of Merit for GS 10 down (with \$100.00 cash) which could be awarded for outstanding group action or individual action. He said he felt that an Honor Award was only as good as its dissemination and went on to describe various methods which might be used to achieve this end, including: presentation by the DCI with a selected group of Senior officers present; annual announcement of the number of individuals who had received awards without names; posting of names and awards without giving the reason for the award; show case display of the awards; newsletter circulation of a list; display of framed certificates on the wall; and the issuance of lapel ribbons or rosettes.

4. Following [REDACTED]'s presentation of the problem, there was a general discussion resulting in the following points which now represent the Clandestine Services position.

a. The natural human instinct for credit can and should be tempered by a realization that we in the Clandestine Services are members of the "Silent Service".

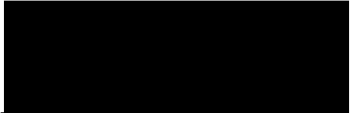
b. "Because of operational security considerations peculiar to the Clandestine Services we would be opposed to the publication in an annual announcement, newsletter or posting of numbers or names of CS Honor awards.

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For the same reason we would be opposed to a show case or framed certificate display of existing Honor Awards or the issuance of lapel ribbons or rosettes."

c. Because of varying conditions and considerations of operational security and cover it will be necessary to determine in connection with each Honor Award for DD/P personnel, on an ad hoc basis, that period of time during which the award would remain in "Deep Freeze" and what action should be taken at the expiration of this period. This period would be a minimum of one year and a maximum of the individual's total active service with the Clandestine Services, in other words until retirement.

d. The "Deep Freeze" period would not preclude the presentation of an Honor Award by the DCI to the individual in the presence of the DD/P and appropriate officers of the Clandestine Services at the time the award was authorized.

  
Chief of Operations, DD/P

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